



USS FLOYD B. PARKS DD-884 ASSOCIATION

May, 2016

MESSAGE FROM THE ASSOCIATION'S PRESIDENT

The official motto of the USS Floyd B. Parks DD 884 is **ON THE WAY**. Continuing in that tradition, we're on the way to a super reunion in Colorado Springs. The activities scheduled include one of the best train rides in the country, and three nationally recognized attractions to choose from on small tour day. For Saturday night we have an outdoor BBQ with Pike's Peak for a backdrop and one of the best country bands in the region.

Additionally, there are a wide range of things to see and do on your own in and around town, from exciting and strenuous to sedate.

On behalf of our Treasurer and Reunion Planner, please note the deadlines on the event form. It is becoming very difficult to make changes once the dates imposed by the hotel and the tours for submission of our numbers have passed. People have already begun to make hotel reservations, so view rooms and Suites will be going fast. As a reminder, room rates are good three days before and after the reunion, and the rate includes two breakfast buffets daily and roundtrip transportation from the Colorado Springs Airport.

In an effort to keep this short, I have one additional request: please keep the families of the shipmates we have lost since the last newsletter in your thoughts and prayers.

May you and yours enjoy fair winds and following seas between here and Colorado Springs.

MINI REUNION NEWS SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 2016

The Annual Mini Reunion Luncheon was held in Imperial Beach, CA. This luncheon is dedicated to the men who served on the Floyd B. Parks (DD-884) from its commissioning in 1945 to its decommissioning in 1973.

It was my honor once again to host the Annual Spring luncheon at the RFA. I would like to thank all who attended the luncheon in spite of the wet weather. It turned out to be a beautiful day in San Diego and a good time was had by all who came. This mini reunion gave the shipmates a chance to reminisce and get caught up with one another.

I would like to thank Cheryl at the FRA in Imperial Beach for the delicious food she prepared for the luncheon. A special thanks to my sister Eleanor Romero for helping me at the event, my niece Vanessa Romero for wrapping all of the raffle prizes, Bob Bahler for contributing a gift clock to the raffle, and to Paula Campbell for donating a special gift basket in Honor of her step-father who recently passed away, Seabee Papa Tom Payne (1945-1946) Honolulu, HI.

I hope to see you all again next year...even better...I hope to see more of you attend next year!!

Take care and thank you,
Janet Romero

Welcome to Colorado Springs, Colorado Reunion
September 14-19, 2016

We are happy to announce we will be at the Marriott Colorado Springs. Located at 5580 Tech Center Drive, Colorado Springs, CO. www.marriott.com/cosmc the hotel has beautiful views of Pikes Peak and I encourage you to make your reservations early. Hotel services and amenities include free parking, complimentary wireless internet, on site restaurant, Starbucks, safe, coffee maker refrigerators and handicap accessible rooms. This is a no smoking hotel.

Rooms are blocked under the name **USS Floyd B Parks DD884 Military Reunion.**

You can call the 24 hour reservations line at 1-800-932-2151 or call the group coordinator at 719 268-4218. Ask for the USS Floyd B Parks DD884 Military Reunion. **Please be aware the cutoff date for hotel reservations is Friday, August 12, 2016.** Reservations must be accompanied by a first night room deposit or guaranteed with a major credit card. The cancellation policy is 24 hours prior to arrival.

Room Options: The standard room rate is \$122.00 and the Junior Suite is \$152.00. The rooms can be viewed on the hotel's website. www.marriott.com/cosmc we have negotiated **both rates to include hotel shuttle service to/from Colorado Springs airport and a wonderful hot breakfast buffet each day for 2 per room.** **If you are planning on taking the hotel shuttle mark yes on your activity form along with your airline, date and arrival time.**

We have secured a discount with United and Delta Airlines through Travel One Travel agency. The discount applies for both Colorado Springs and Denver airports. Both airlines are offering a 2-10% discount, depending upon class of service purchased.

Please call 844-704-8264 or email grouptravel@traveloneinc.com call between 8:00am and 6:00pm CT M-F. Tell them that you are attending the Floyd B Parks Navy Meeting. You will be asked to provide your full legal name as it appears on the ID used at airport security, date of birth, and credit card information.

There is a \$25.00 per ticket booking/processing fee in addition to the cost of the airfare. This is the same amount the airlines would charge if you were to call them for your reservation.

The benefit of working with Travel One is that if you had a problem during your travel you can call the agency that will be more efficient at fixing things than the airlines.

This service is being provided to help make your travel easier. You are not required to use it.

Colorado Springs... made up of a million little moments that make for one BIG adventure.....
ARE YOU READY!!!!!!

Our group activity starts Friday morning with the Royal Gorge Route Railroad Train ride. On Saturday you can sign up for any one of the 3 tours.

Friday, September 16, 2016

- ❖ **Royal Gorge Route Railroad Train.** Our journey begins at the historic Santa Fe Depot, riding along the winding Arkansas River, complete with high desert vistas and dramatic views of the 1,000 foot granite cliffs. This is an unforgettable journey through Colorado's grandest canyon. We will have a delicious Oktoberfest lunch onboard with cash bar. If wheelchair assistance is needed please advise Pamela on your activity form. Buses will load from the hotel at 9:30am and be back to the hotel by 4pm. **Space is limited on this tour return your activity form early.** www.royalgorgeroute.com
Friday evening will be on your own for dinner. B-I-N-G-O..... Bingo night!!

Saturday, September 17, 2016

- ❖ **National Museum of WWII Aviation.** There is no other museum in the U.S. focused solely on the important story about WWII aviation and its heroes. A national story for every American. Buses will load from the hotel at 9:45am and be back to the hotel by 3pm. www.worldwarIIaviation.org we have a great lunch scheduled at the Airplane Restaurant whose centerpiece is a fully intact Boeing KC-97 tanker.
It is rich in aviation history, displaying 100's of pictures and memorabilia.
www.theairplanerestaurant.com

Saturday, September 17, 2016

- ❖ **Garden of the Gods & Academy Chapel Tour.** Voted the #1 park in the country. Do you like grand views and incredible photos? There is no shortage of scenic spots in this picturesque park. Beautiful and Majestic! This is a bus tour with a couple of stops. Buses will load from the hotel at 9:15am and be back to the hotel by 3pm. www.gardenofgods.com we will have lunch at Mother Muff's Kitchen & Spirits in Old Colorado City. www.mothersmuffs.com

Saturday, September 17, 2016

- ❖ **U.S. Olympic Training Center.** Where America's Olympic Athletes Train. Experience what it takes to turn Olympic dreams into reality. This tour starts with an inspirational 12 minute film and 45 minute outdoor walking tour of the training complex, including Weight lifting, Aquatic center and the Sport Gymnasiums center. Buses will load from the hotel at 9:00am and be back to the hotel by 3pm www.teamusa.org we will have a wonderful lunch at BJ's Restaurant Brewhouse www.bjsrestaurants.com

Saturday, September 17, 2016

- ❖ **Saturday Night Dinner.** Saddle up for some fun and Ya'll come join us.
It's a country western BBQ hoedown. Get your cowboy hat and western duds out of the closet. We are going to have a Stompin' good time with some Two Steppin' Grillin' and Drinking Cold Beer. Again this year we will begin the raffle on Saturday night with some of the items and complete the raffle on Banquet night.

Sunday, September 18, 2016

- ❖ **The Men's Association meeting** will start at 9:30am. Please attend. There will be updates of your association by your officers. Following the men's meeting our worship service with Chaplin David Lewis is at 11am. Times for pictures will be changing to make it more comfortable and easier for you. More details in the agenda at the reunion. Banquet Dinner will follow pictures.

Things to do in beautiful Colorado Springs!

- ❖ **Historic Old Colorado City.** Locally owned specialty shops, art galleries. Outdoor cafes along the tree lined streets of Colorado Ave. www.shopoldcoloradocity.com
- ❖ **Mollie Kathleen Gold Mine.** Travel underground via elevator for America's only 1,000 foot vertical shaft gold mine tour. www.goldminetours.com
- ❖ **Miramont Castle Museum.** 1890's incredible Victorian style castle. It has 9 styles of architecture and 30 rooms on this magnificent property. www.miramontcastle.org
- ❖ **Pikes Peak – America's Mountain.** Take a 19 mile scenic journey encountering breathtaking scenery as you wind your way through an alpine wonderland. Consider any personal health issues because of altitude. www.pikespeakcolorado.com
- ❖ **Cripple Creek Colorado.** Historic town with museums, casinos. www.cripplecreek.com
- ❖ **Manitou & Pikes Peak Cog Railway.** Highest cog railway in the world ascends to summit of 14,110 feet Pikes Peak. Consider any health issues when thinking of doing this.
www.cograilway.com

Questions on hotel or tours please contact Pamela Smith (612 290-4465). Because of hotel and tour deadlines the activity form/payment is **due July 11th 2016.**

ACTIVITY FORM – COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO

Name (s): First		Last		Phone #	Email:
1.					
2.					
3.					
Arrival Date:		Departure Date:		Circle one: Driving or Flying	
Request Hotel Shuttle from Colorado Springs Airport? Yes or No			Airline	Arrival Time:	
Rank/Rating:		Dates served on ship:		New Attendee? Yes or No	
Day	Date	Activity	Cost	# of People	Total
Friday	September 16 th Colorado's #1 Scenic Train	Royal Gorge Route Railroad Train ride Bus/Oktoberfest Lunch	\$75		
Saturday	September 17 th Lunch @ The Airplane restaurant www.TheAirplaneResturant.com	TOUR #1 National Museum of WWII Aviation Bus, Lunch	\$50		
Saturday	September 17 th Lunch @ Mother Muff's Kitchen www.mothermuffs.com	TOUR #2 Garden of the Gods & Academy Chapel Bus Tour Lunch	\$60		
Saturday	September 17 th Lunch @ BJ's Restaurant www.bjsrestaurants.com	TOUR #3 U.S. Olympic Training Center Bus, Lunch	\$50		
Saturday	September 17 th	Hotel Dinner Western BBQ Country Western Dance Band	\$35		
Sunday	September 18th	Banquet Dinner	\$35		Chicken Breast
					Broiled Top Sirloin
					Vegetarian Wellington
Total Submitted for ALL Events and Meals			\$		

Attach the activity form and your check made to **USS Floyd B. Parks Assn.** for the total activities and mail your activity form/check by **July 11th** to: **Dennis Allion, 4 Los Encinos Dr. Del Rey Oaks, CA 93940**

From the Chaplains Corner
David Lewis,
PARKS Assoc. Chaplain

Greetings,

It's a slow start to summer in my area which has me wondering if our September reunion will be summer time. We have had a very dry and cool start to this season but a great start to the planting of our fields. I hope all is as well with everyone and you are as excited about our reunion as I am. Sound like a great time in store.

A bit of good news about Jim and Kay Elmore...their daughter Laura and husband Dusty and new baby are doing well. They all had quite a scare with the early arrival but our prayers were answered and things are working out. I feel we need to direct our prayers now to some others of our Parks crew. As we have read in Sues News.

Maggie Highton is dealing with some serious health issues. We need her and Jim to know we are there for them. Maggie is always greeting us with such a happy smile and we really need her to know how much it means to see her and Jim at the reunions, so put your thoughts and prayers to work. Our hero and founder Robby is not doing so well. If you take a few minutes of your time and lift up a prayer to the Lord, I am sure we can help both Maggie and Robby to be at our side at the next reunion.

Since our last meeting we have some crew members who will not be present in body but in spirit. Buddy Zimbelman 49-51, John Griffith 45-46, Pasqual Flores, 70-73. These men will be greatly missed by all of us as well as their families. Those of us who served with these three will always remember the great times and honor their memories with a few stories about them next time we meet. Hard to imagine a sailor having any stories well...may be one or two. Please keep me informed of any needs our crew needs help with.

David Lewis, MM3 '70-'73

(If you know of someone that is ill or has passed away, please email or call me so I can share with the Parks Family idawdle@nemr.net, 660-216-0055)

ASSOCIATION DUES

From the Treasurer

We have 327 active members of the Association after culling out those who have not paid dues for four or more years in a row (sad that they are no longer able to participate or have lost interest). Here is a summary of dues collected this year:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| - Paid up through at least 2016 | 153 THANK YOU! |
| - Paid through 2015 but not yet 2016 | 92 |
| - Paid through 2014 but not 2015 or 2016 | 50 |
| - Have not paid in past 3 years | 32 (will be dropped from active role) |

We need your dues to pay for routine administrative expenses - newsletters, printing costs and maintaining the Association's web site. You know where you stand on the list of dues payers, please get current. Dues are \$10 per year – a real bargain.

We continue to honor our deceased shipmates by offering free Honorary Membership to their surviving wives. There are currently 61 honorary members in the Association.

Dennis Allion, Your Association Treasurer

**U.S.S. FLOYD B. PARKS
DD884 ASSOCIATION**

Dennis Allion
4 Los Encinos Drive
Del Rey Oaks, CA 93940

MAY, 2016



*Colorado
Springs Reunion
September,
14-19, 2016*

*“Life is made up of countless moments, the best ones
being those we share with Friends and Family”*